

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05258 090218Z

22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 OES-06 ERDA-05 ACDA-07 NRC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8199

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5258

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM PFOR KS

SUBJ: JAPAN PRESS REPORT ON ROK NUCLEAR CAPABILITY

REF: (A) STATE 138552, (B) TOKYO 8850, (C) TOKYO 10064

1. ALTHOUGH ROKS QUITE CAPABLE PLAYING GAMES AND IT CANNOT BE TOTALLY DISCOUNTED, WE DOUBT VALIDITY OF ENDO'S REMARK THAT SANKEI PRINTED STORY ABOUT ROK NUCLEAR CAPABILITY AT BEHEST OF ANY AUTHORIZED ROKG OFFICIAL IN ORDER TO IMPRESS U.S. THAT CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR ROK ESSENTIAL. IF ROKG IS SECRETLY DEVELOPING A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY AS HEDGE AGAINST POSSIBILITY U.S. MIGHT NOT LIVE UP TO ITS COMMITMENT, IN LIGHT OF STRONG U.S. POSITION AGAINST PRO-LIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, IT NOT LIKELY TO BE IN ROK'S INTEREST TO PUBLICIZE THIS NEWS AS A MOVE TO FIRM UP U.S. SUPPORT. THIS KIND OF PLOY WOULD BE FAR MORE LIKELY TO GENERATE STRONG COUNTER REACTION IN U.S. THAT WOULD PRODUCE EXACT OPPOSITE OF RESULT DESIRED. WE BELIEVE ROKS WOULD BE AWARE OF THIS.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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